

Ice formed in Washington City and neighborhood Sunday night.

The jury in the Gerdeiman case at Philadelphia, could not agree and were discharged.

An Englishman, at Passy, in France, wished to experience the sensation of hanging, and he did.

Pity the law doesn't authorize it—but it don't or, we might have the Scotch verdict of Not Proven in the Beecher Case.

The true Republicans of Missouri learn with sadness that they have looked for the last time upon the old familiar face of the St. Louis Democrat.

The sawmill of Wise & Loomis, together with a large quantity of lumber at Loomis, Mich., was destroyed by fire. Loss on Mill \$15,000; on lumber \$12,000.

The St. Louis Democrat recommends the Board of Equalization to procure a copy of Poor's Manual of Railways for 1875, to guide them in their estimates of the value of railway property in Missouri.

What has been done with that whisky war which broke out so violently in St. Louis on the 16th instant. We have not even seen a list of the "killed and wounded."

Five new national banks were authorized to commence business in various places in New England Monday, besides the German National Bank of Alleghany, Pennsylvania. Capital, \$200,000.

The Assistant Treasurer opened bids for \$1,000,000 gold Tuesday. These amounted to \$4,885,000, and ranged from 115.01 to 115.65. The \$1,000,000 was awarded at 115.57 to 115.63.

The seizure of the whisky stills and rectifying establishments of the country is likely to result in more or less of disturbance. Another whisky rebellion is not an impossible event.

The statement of the financial condition of Cole county is in order. The gratuitous use of the columns of the JOURNAL is tendered for the exhibit in the absence of any better means of getting it before the public.

As we anticipated, the merger of the Democrat and Globe is to bring forth the Globe-Democrat, which will appear for the first time on Monday next. The paper will be greatly enlarged in a short time.

Our district has only one representative in the Constitutional Convention—Mr. Kelly, of Camden, who was elected at the regular election, having died. To-day we elect another to fill the vacancy. We hope a good man will be elected.

The Tribune's columns are crowded just now, but that shall not be an excuse for a failure to publish an exhibit of the condition of the School Fund of the county. Room for the publication can be had in the columns of the JOURNAL, the best means of getting it before the public, anyway.

The Postmaster-General, Friday, issued an order forbidding payment, by the Postmaster at Cincinnati, of postal money orders drawn to the order of L. D. Sine, who is engaged in conducting a gift enterprise. All registered letters addressed to Sine are to be returned to the office from which mailed.

It will be seen from the report of the proceedings of the Convention Thursday that leave was obtained by Col. Gantt, of the Committee on Preamble and Bill of Rights, to make a "correction" of the 8th section of the Bill of Rights, as reported by the committee. We understand the correction to be the addition to that section of an exception, so that same would read and be in substance, if not literally as follows:

8. That every gift, sale or devise or land to any priest, minister, public teacher or preacher of the Gospel, as such, of to any religious sect, order or denomination; or to, or for the support, use or benefit of, or in trust for any minister, public teacher or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order or denomination; and every gift or sale of goods or chattles, to go in succession, or to take effect after death of the seller or donor, to or for such support, use or benefit; and also every devise of goods or chattles to or for the support of any minister, public teacher or preacher of the gospel, as such, or any religious sect, or denomination, shall be void, except so much land as may be required for a house of public worship, chapel, parsonage and burial ground for any church congregation or religious society, the quantity of land so held not exceeding five acres in the country or one acre in a town or city.

It seems we have touched upon a tender spot in the life-record of Hull of the Sedalia Democrat. We did it unwittingly. In the JOURNAL of Sunday last we mentioned his objection to a recognition of the doctrine of "primary and paramount allegiance to the general government." It was a lie, as we said, at the 3rd section of Judge Adams' draft of a new constitution, which we quoted. We marveled at the talk, and ventured to add that "we had thought the question of secession or nullification or allegiance to the Union had been settled finally in a court of last resort. And, in a feeble effort to charitably account for his failure to appreciate the grand lessons of the war, we suggested that the great court of armed arbitration in which these questions were settled "was a court Dr. Hull was too cowardly to enter, except in the capacity of sutler, which might account for his flippant manner of writing on so grave a subject."

Herein it seems we touched upon and opened, by the purest chance, an unpleasant chapter in the man's life-history, and mortally offended him. We intimated that he was once a "sutler!" We did not know of his sensitiveness respecting that era in his unfortunate and profitless existence. We know of course that a "sutler" in the army who did not sympathize with its objects, who led on the hard earned, blood-bought savings of a soldiery he hoped to see fail in their mission, was a most despicable creature, but did not suspect the man of sufficient conscience to realize the fact and feel it. We simply wished to make the point, which was better made in the Convention Tuesday, by Mr. Boone of DeKalb, a Confederate soldier, than we make it, that the supremacy of the Federal Government is settled, and that, but for his constitutional horror of danger, Hull might have been one of the armed arbitrators that settled it, and thus have learned of its settlement. In doing this we incidentally intimated that he was once a sutler. It was nothing to be called a coward, but to be called a "sutler" was beyond endurance; was something to arouse resentment, which found expression in base, cowardly and lying innuendoes directed to us personally, as if they could silence us in the war we propose to wage upon all hypocritical demagogues and disturbers of our political peace, irrespectively.

We therefore say to this dirty old black-guard, who seeks by libelous insinuations to blacken our good name, that we ask of him no favors; that all the courtesies we have ever received from him we have earned by our forbearance to treat him as he deserves to be treated—with scorn and contempt; that none of his villainous threats or libelous insinuations against us can avail him aught in driving us from our purpose to answer any political or other issue that may be raised and which we may see fit to notice.

Mr. Brockmeyer's proposition for a provision of the constitution to ensure the better protection of the local or county School Fund of the State is a step in the right direction, and we trust he will follow it up until its object is accomplished. We do not believe there is another interest the people have that has been so shamefully neglected and abused as this. There is not a county in the state but should have of its own, for its own separate use and benefit, a princely school fund. But how is it? We will not now attempt to point out all the abuses (to call them by no harsher name) that have occurred in the management of this fund in the past. It will be something gained if they are guarded against in the future.

There is at present at the Paris Mint enough of gold ingots for the coining of 20,000,000 francs in pieces of twenty francs. There is also a great abundance of silver, and it can almost be said that the metal taken out of the country by the war indemnity has completely re-entered France.

The opinion of the Court of Claims in the Pacific Railroad transportation case will not be announced before next Monday, to which time the court adjourned.

Anything in opposition to the doctrine of "State rights" or in acknowledgment of the supremacy of the American Union is to be bitterly warred against by such papers as the Sedalia Democrat.

Final arrangements have been made by the Confederate and Federal soldiers for a joint decoration on the 29th of May at Little Rock. The colored people are included in the arrangements.

Secretary Bristow Monday had an interview with Judge Pierrepont on intended prosecutions of persons engaged in whisky frauds. Papers and documents relating to this business were officially referred to Commissioner Battley and Solicitor Wilson.

The people of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas have been in a state of torment for some weeks past in consequence of the destructive presence of great hordes of grasshoppers. But their trouble is more in what is threatened than what has really been done. In fact the damage done thus far is not irreparable. It, as is predicted, the scourge abates by the first of June it will not be late even then to make a good crop. There is every reason to believe that by that time the pests will be destroyed. From the scene of devastation, the Kansas City Journal of Commerce writes thus hopefully:

There can be little doubt, however, that the effect is temporary, and is for the present much over-estimated. The present crop of grasshoppers are confined to a district about one hundred and fifty miles wide, extending from near the Southern line of Kansas to the Northern line of Missouri. Seventy-five miles west of us they have none, and they never had such good prospects for crops. Seventy-five miles east of us they have none, and they have good prospects. There are none reported in western Iowa. In this district they are seriously damaging gardens and oats. The fall wheat and early sown flax, castor beans, and many other things of less importance have escaped with little injury. The corn has been cut down generally, but it can be replanted in time to make a fair crop, after they leave. The hay crop cannot, in the nature of things, be injured.

We may then expect to have fair crops of corn, winter wheat, castor beans and flax with probably an average fruit crop, and plenty of hay. The loss, therefore, in the district where they exist cannot be material, discouraging as it looks to many people. West of this district there will be abundant crops, and as the people lost everything last year, and we now being fed by the government, it is fair to presume that they will want much, and will trade to the full extent of their means.

The Sedalia Democrat is making the issue early. It understands that Judge Adams' draft of a new constitution recognizes the old Federal doctrine of "primary and paramount allegiance to the general government," and adds that "if the convention shall incorporate such an absurd, anti-democratic principle in the new constitution, it will be overwhelmingly defeated, as the Democracy are desperately in earnest on this question." The portion of Judge Adams' draft of a new constitution the Democrat is striking at is, evidently, the proviso of the 3rd section of the Bill of Rights he proposes, to wit:

SEC. 3. That the people of this State have the inherent, sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof, and of altering and abolishing their constitution and form of government whenever it may be necessary to their safety and happiness; *Provided, however,* That as this State forms one of the United States, the people thereof are a part of the American Union, and we cannot dissolve our connection therewith or secede therefrom; and in framing a constitution or a government for this State it must be done consistently with the constitution of the United States and the laws of Congress made in pursuance thereof.

We thank the Democrat for taking ground against a proposition of this kind thus early. We shall now watch the action of the convention respecting it with particular attention, and whether a provision embracing the proposition is omitted from the new Constitution or not we shall know what it means. We had thought the question of secession or nullification or allegiance to the Union had been settled finally, in a court of last resort. But that was a court, Doctor Hull was too cowardly to enter, except in the capacity of sutler, which may account for his flippant manner of writing on so grave a subject.

As an indication of the sensitiveness of the great money and commercial center of the country to a possible calamity visited upon any portion of the people we mention the receipt Wednesday, by a St. Louis gentleman, now in the city, of a dispatch from New York making inquiry as to the foundation existing for the Governor's proclamation for fasting and prayer. Upon the Summer's harvests depend the ability of the people to meet their obligations. The governor's proclamation indicated to people abroad that devastations is spreading over the State, and alarm among the people's creditors is the consequence.

Four burglars were captured at New York Sunday morning in the act of breaking through the walls of the silk warehouse from an adjoining building. None of the convicts who escaped from Sing Sing on the locomotive are yet captured.

A call for redemption of \$5,000,000 coupon bonds issued from the Treasury on Saturday, indicates an additional subscription of that amount by the syndicate, making in all \$35,000,000 called in on that account.

The nail feeders of Wheeling, W. Va., agreed to resume work at old figures, provided they are given their old jobs.

REBEL ASSESSMENTS.

A Scrap of History.

The St. Louis Republican produces a scrap of history that will be of interest in a matter to which there is frequent reference, even at this date after its occurrence:

Many of our readers will remember the surprise and indignation which pervaded the city in the summer of 1862, when it was announced from military headquarters that an assessment of five hundred thousand dollars would be made upon the "disloyal citizens," or Southern sympathizers, of this city and county. It was to be graded on a double scale, according to the wealth and supposed degree of sympathy of the victims. A board of assessment, consisting of five prominent citizens, afterwards increased to eight, was nominated to ascertain facts, to examine witnesses, and to specify the amounts to be paid. *Ex parte* and secret evidence was received; little or no opportunity of defence was practicable. Many persons did not know they were under suspicion until the assessed amount was declared. The collection was to be summary, under the stringency of martial law. When the amount of \$150,000 had been reached, and comparatively few persons knew where the blow would strike, the forced collection began, and had proceeded a little way, under the indignant protest but prudent submission of the sufferers, many of whom were good and true citizens in every sense of the word. All at once and quite unexpectedly an order, bearing date December 15, 1862, appeared, which was understood to come direct from Washington, and took the "assessors" themselves completely by surprise, stopping the assessment summarily and forever. There were probably not a dozen persons in St. Louis at the time to whom the immediate causes of the change were known. Great and bitter complaints were made by the board of assessment and by many others. A few months afterwards a leading member of the board, in a long letter arraigning the course of Gov. Gamble, and published over his own name in the daily Democrat of June 13, 1863, makes the following statement:

"On the 25th of December the board of assessment called on Gen. Curtis at his headquarters, when the general informed the board that '****, a good Union man, had got up a remonstrance with many signatures (or 'signatures' as the general called it), and that that petition was taken to Gen. Halleck at Washington; and on the strength of that petition and the letter of Gov. Gamble, the assessment was suspended by Gen. Halleck.' The petition of **** set forth that the assessment was an arbitrary and unjust proceeding."

That is partly right and partly wrong. The memorial or petition was written and signed by a clergyman of this city, who was known to be very active in the Union cause and a personal friend of President Lincoln. It was addressed to Gov. Gamble, and by him indorsed and forwarded to the President. Mr. Lincoln read the memorial with care, turned it over and indorsed upon it, "Stop the whole thing by telegraph," and sent it to Gen. Halleck.

We have lately happened to have access to the original documents and to the order of repeal. They are as follows, and are well worth reading, now that the excitement of strife has passed. Undoubtedly the board of assessment labored to perform its duty faithfully, but few persons will now fail to see that the grounds of objection to the whole proceeding were just and sufficient:

"To His Excellency, Gov. H. B. GAMBLE: "GOVERNOR: The undersigned, your memorialists, who are now, and always have been unconditional Union men and supporters of the government, most respectfully represent: That the 'assessment' now in progress, to be levied upon Southern sympathizers and secessionists, is working evil in this community and doing great harm to the Union cause. Among our citizens are all shades of opinion, from that kind of neutrality which is hatred in disguise, through all the grades of lukewarmness, 'sympathy,' and hesitating zeal up to the full loyalty, which your memorialists, in common with your self, claim to possess. To assort and classify these, so as to divide the dividing line of loyalty and disloyalty, and to establish the rates of payment by those falling below it, is a task of great difficulty. If it can be done at all, it must be by patient investigation and after hearing evidence on both sides, giving to each party the opportunity of self-defence. It would require, not only a competent tribunal, sitting for a great length of time and possessed of full authority to examine witnesses under oath, but also a kind of degree of scrutiny with republican institutions. Such an investigation has, to some degree, been attempted in the present case, but although the character and standing of the assessment board give assurance that a faithful endeavor to be just and impartial has been made, yet they have been compelled to admit hearsay evidence, rumors, and 'general impressions,' and have in no case required witnesses to testify under oath. The natural consequence has been that many feel themselves deeply aggrieved, not having supposed themselves liable to the suspicion of disloyalty; many escape assessment who, if any, deserve it; and a general feeling of inequality in the rule and rate of assessment prevails. This rule and rate of assessment, which would be unavoidable, for no two tribunals could agree upon the details of such an assessment, either as to the persons or the amounts to be assessed, without more complete knowledge of facts than can be attained from *ex parte* testimony and current reports. Nothing short of a thorough judicial investigation could lead to a satisfactory result."

"Your memorialists therefore respectfully petition that you will use your influence, Gov. Gamble, with the commanding general and with the authorities at Washington, that the proceedings in assessment be stayed, at least until the mode of obtaining the funds required by Congress, the just demand of the State would be met and the payment of our State militia, in defence of the common cause, would be made."

It is the opinion of your memorialists that under anything short of your memorial authority and judicial action, such assessments as are now in progress would only amount to a forced loan, for which reclamation could ultimately be made and sustained."

"All of which is respectfully submitted by your obedient servant."

"ST. LOUIS, Dec. 2, 1862."

county of St. Louis, and submitted them to the secretary of war for his decision. "I am instructed to say in reply, that, as there seems to be no present military necessity for the enforcement of this assessment, all proceedings under the order of Gen. Schofield will be suspended."

"Very respectfully your obedient servant," "H. W. HALLECK, General in Chief."

The Gold Fish Trick—How a Necromancer Came to Grief.

Max Adler relates the following: Several of the magicians who perform in public do what they call the "gold fish trick." The juggler stands upon the stage, throws a handkerchief over his extended arm, and produces in succession three or four shallow glass dishes, filled to the brim with water, in which live gold fish are swimming. Of course the dishes are concealed somehow upon the person of the performer.

Peter Lamb, the young fellow who lives near me, discovered how the trick was done, and he offered to do it the other night at Magruder's party for the entertainment of the company. So the folks all gathered in one end of the parlor, and in a few moments Lamb entered the door at the other end. He said:

"Ladies and gentlemen, you will perceive that I have nothing about me except my ordinary clothing, and yet I shall produce presently two dishes filled with water and living fish. Please to watch me narrowly."

Then Peter threw the handkerchief over his hand and arm, and we could see that he was working his way vigorously at something beneath it. He continued for some moments and still the gold fish did not appear. Then he began to grow very red in the face, and we saw that something was the matter. Then the perspiration began to stand on Peter's forehead, and Mrs. Magruder asked him if he was well. Then the company laughed, and the magician grew redder. But he kept on fumbling beneath that handkerchief, and apparently trying to reach around under his coat-tails. Then we heard something snap, and the next moment a quart of water ran down the wizard's left leg and spread out over the carpet.

By this time he looked as if the grave would be a welcome refuge. But still he continued to feel around under the handkerchief. At last another snap was heard, and one more quart of water plunged down his right leg and formed a pool about his shoe. Then the necromancer hurriedly said that the experiment had somewhat failed, and he darted into the dining-room. I followed, and found him sitting on the sofa, trying to remove his pantaloons. He exclaimed:

"O, gracious! Come here quickly and pull these off! They're soaking wet, and I've got fifteen live gold fish inside my drawers flippin' around, and raspin' the skin with their fins enough to make a man crazy. Ouch! O, Moses! Hurry the shoe off, and grab that fish there at my left knee, or I'll have to howl right out!"

Then we uncrossed him, and picked the fish out of his clothes, and I discovered that he had two dishes full of water and covered with India-rubber tops strapped inside his trousers behind. In his struggle to get at them he had torn the cover to shreds. We fixed him up a pair of Magruder's trousers, which were six inches short for him, and then he climbed over the fence and went home. He says, now, that the next time that he gives exhibitions in public, he intends to confine himself to ventriloquism.

SHERIDAN'S BRIDE.—It hardly seems further back on the annals time than short yesterday since Miss Irene Rucker walked, a slender darkeyed little girl, in our midst, arrayed in short dresses, and her hair braided in two long plaits hanging below her waist. How rapidly these tender young things spring up into womanhood, and how early the bridal veil throws its soft mist over them! It makes us lookers on search cautiously among our treasures to see if any threads frosted with years have crept in among our darker ones. It seems so short a time since General Rucker was stationed here, and occupied the "Michler house," on Twenty-first street, within almost a stone's throw of the Potomac, its ample grounds filled with trees, grapevines and flowers. Tony Rucker was then a great, honest, generous-hearted boy, brimming over with pranks and mischief, the greatest favorite with his companions, and, constant source of amusement to his elders. And now, little Irene Rucker—for I cannot think of her as a "young lady grown"—has won the prize for which so many maidens have smiled and striven in vain!

The bean crop is worthy of a place in a rotation, not only for its profit but for its influence upon the soil. It takes little from the soil, is a cleaning crop, requires little outlay for seed, occupies the ground but a short time, and may follow a crop of clover the same season, if an early ripening variety is chosen. The "Medium" ripens early, is hardy, but sells at a lower price than the "Marrow." The "Marrow" is very productive on a good soil, and is a popular market variety. If properly harvested the haul is much relished by sheep and is nutritious. The bean when ground with corn or oats, is readily eaten, and when cooked, pigs will eat with avidity. No food is better for a growing animal, nor contains more flesh-forming elements than this bean. The idea, however, that beans may be grown with profit upon a soil too poor for any other crop, is erroneous.—Agriculturist.